

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A slurry comprising:
an abrasive; and
periodic acid, wherein the pH of the slurry is between about 4 to about 8, and
wherein the periodic acid comprises a molar concentration from about 0.004M to
about 0.008 M.
2. The slurry of claim 1 further comprising a corrosion inhibitor.
3. The slurry of claim 2 wherein the corrosion inhibitor comprises 1-benzotriazole (BTA).
4. The slurry of claim 1 further comprising a buffer system comprising an organic acid and a salt of the organic acid.
5. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim 4 wherein the organic acid is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of citric acid, acetic acid, carbonic acid, oxalic acid and ascorbic acid.
6. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein the salt of the organic acid is selected ~~from~~ from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of potassium citrate,

potassium acetate, potassium bicarbonate, potassium oxalate and potassium ascorbate.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim 1 wherein the abrasive is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of silica, alumina, zirconia and ceria.

9. The slurry of claim 1 further comprising a surfactant.

10. (Currently amended) The slurry of claim 9 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of cetyl trimethyl ammonium hydroxide (CTAOH).

Claims 11-35 (Canceled).